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one of the user interfaces of the ATM network;

conversion units provided respectively at the exchange termination and the line termination, to convert time-division multiplex data into ATM cells, or ATM cells into time-division multiplex data ; and

an allocation unit to allocate a virtual ATM channel to each time-division multiplex channel.

Sub E'

4. (TWICE AMENDED) A transmission system according to claim 1, wherein the conversion units contain a channel multiplexer/demultiplexer for distributing digital signals of the individual time-division multiplex channels to the respectively allocated ATM cells, or the digital signals from the ATM cells and distribute them into the allocated time-division multiplex channels; said system further comprising an ATM converter for packing items of digital information received from the channel multiplexer/demultiplexer into ATM cells or, respectively, for unpacking ATM cells and emitting the digital information contained therein to the channel multiplexer/demultiplexer, and for inserting ATM cells from this cell stream, and an interface for passing synchronization information of the time-division multiplex signals to the ATM network or, respectively, to receive synchronization information from the ATM network, and pass it to the ATM converter and to the channel multiplexer/demultiplexer.

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5. (NEW) A transmission system according to claim 1, wherein the ATM network, the connection units, the conversion units and the allocation unit create a V1 reference point according to ITU-T G.960 between the exchange termination and the line termination.

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 and 4 have been amended and new claim 5 has been added. Claims 1-5 are pending and under consideration.

On September 10, 2002, the Examiners kindly granted the undersigned a personal interview to discuss the application. The Examiners' time in preparing for and conducting the interview is greatly appreciated.

The foregoing claim changes are made pursuant to discussions at the Examiner interview and are believed to distinguish over the prior art.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.